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LECTURE LXXVIII.

OUTLOOK.

WERE JAPANESE PLANS BASED ON ANTICIPATED RUSSIAN DEFEAT?
INABILITY TO STAND LONG WAR UNAIDED.
LEGEND OF GERMAN INVINCIBILITY DISCREDITED.

by

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(In a recent B. B. C. Talk).

In 1914, as in 1898, the aim of Germany was to get a foothold in the Portuguese Colonies for future action against the British Empire, and the real or apparent blindness of British Ministers to these German aims was due to a spirit of appeasement, that is to say, the vain hope of avoiding a conflict with Germany by paying black-mail to her.

Now Japan would like to step into the place Germany hoped to get in Portuguese Timor, and to make it a base for action against Australia, Britain, the Dutch East Indies and the United States alike. For the present, at any rate, this plan has been nipped in the bud. An official assurance has been given to Portugal that her sovereignty will be unimpaired, and that after the war the Allied forces will be withdrawn.

JAPANESE OFFENSIVE.

Another possible danger seems to have been dealt with in time by the new Franco-American arrangement about the island of Martinique in the West Indies. The conclusion of this arrangement may be a sign that Vichy France is no longer so sure of a German victory as Marshal Pétain and his colleagues were when they capitulated to Germany in June 1940.

However this may be, I cannot pretend that British public opinion is satisfied with the way things have gone hitherto in and around Malaya or in the Pacific. Japanese successes have made our people feel as grim and as resolute as they felt after the evacuation of Dunkirk in May 1940, and after the loss of Crete last spring.

The Japanese were well-prepared for their attack, while we and to some extent the United States were ill-prepared to meet it. Of the naval and military side of this question I am not competent to speak, but as I know something of Japanese designs and of the influences that have long been uppermost at Tokyo, I have reached some provisional conclusions which events may or may not bear out.

My first conclusion is that the Japanese decision to attack was taken when people in Tokyo believed that Germany would capture Leningrad, Moscow and Rostov, and make swift headway towards the Caucasus. Plans for offensive operation so widespread as those which Japan has undertaken are not made overnight. They are carefully prepared and matured, in readiness for the word "go". Unless one assumes that these plans were made in the expectation of a Russian defeat, it is hard to see why the Japanese military and naval authorities should spread their butter on so much bread.

"A GREAT BLUNDER".

They had already a big war in China on their hands. To add to it big wars with Britain and the United States would, I imagine, have been folly even in Japanese eyes, unless there was thought to be a reasonable prospect that Germany would knock Russia out, while Japan was knocking out Britain and the United States by surprise attacks at several points. In the long run, and unaided, Japan could hardly hope to win a war against the combined resources of Russia, Britain, China and the United States.

So I am inclined to think the Japanese attack almost as great a blunder as that which Hitler committed when he attacked Russia last June.

What solid grounds are there for such a belief? They lie, I imagine, in the circumstance that Germany cannot greatly help to solve Japan's problem for her, and that Japan cannot greatly help to solve Hitler's problem for him, now that the ugly word retreat has for the first time crept into German war bulletins.

Time, and much effort, will doubtless be needed to enable the Allies to solve Japan's problem for her in a sense diametrically contrary to her intentions. But that they will thus solve it seems to me beyond question.

Meanwhile, we have to look at Hitler's problem. He is getting a terrible hammering in Russia. Exactly how severe it is and what it will lead to, we cannot yet judge, but we know enough to be sure that the legend of German invincibility is being seriously discredited, even in the minds of the German people, not to mention those of their accomplices and satellites.

LIKELY NAZI MOVES.

In the hope of saving this legend from utter discredit, Hitler must do something. Signs have been multiplying of late that his next move may be towards the West. Hints have come from German sources that Hitler, while stablizing the war in Russia, will turn to fulfill a long-standing programme in the West, not necessarily against Great Britain herself, but by a heavy blow against Britain's war effort.

Together with these hints we have had news of strong German pressure on Vichy France, and of active German intrigues in Spain. Then we have had the attempt to saddle British submarines with the sinking of French and Spanish ships, an attempt which the British Admiralty has countered with the assurance that no British submarine was anywhere near the spots where the French and Spanish vessels were sunk.

Vichy France has now accepted this assurance. It seems to understand that German or Italian submarines sunk the ships, in the hope of throwing the blame on Great Britain. This manoeuvre may be a symptom of the German design to get hold of Spain, if not Portugal,

and to take possession of French North Africa. If the design were meant to reinforce General Rommel's position in Libya, the thorough beating he has just got may to some extent upset it.

GALLING SETBACKS.

There seems no doubt that Rommel has been badly knocked about, and that he will not be able to hold Cyrenaica, at any rate, even if he should retreat into Tripolitania. This setback, which may turn out to be a disaster, must be galling to Hitler at a moment when his main armies are being broken and mauled in Russia.

I have been looking through the record of what Dr. Goebbels has said in the last three months. In mid-October, he proudly declared "that the vast Russian reserves had been used up, and that the last military pillar of Stalin's power had been broken." On October 31, he added, "In Berlin there is no question whatever of any military pause during the winter." He meant a pause in the German offensive.

On November 8, the German radio informed the world that "sharp frost will be an advantage for the German troops. It will restore the immobility which is now impeded by rain and mud." Exactly a month later, on December 8, the German Military Bulletin stated: "The operations on the Eastern front will now be governed by the advent of winter."

This was three days before Hitler's recent harangue to the Reichstag. Dr. Goebbels hastened to declare that the whole Eastern front was frozen, that neither side could go forwards or backwards. Then came the ominous military bulletin which announced a movement of the German armies to the rear, in order to shorten their front.

These are German, not Russian, statements. They are known in Germany, and throughout the countries under German occupation. If they make it urgent that Hitler should soon strike in another direction, they may also tend to decrease the number of countries still unoccupied prepared to let Hitler harness them to his creaking war chariot. And those countries, no less than the German people, may reflect that in the last Great War the belligerency of the United States rendered a German victory impossible, and that this time the fighting power and the resources of the North American Continent are far more fully mobilised than they were in April 1917.

PROGRESS IN RIGHT DIRECTION.

So looking at things all round, and trying to take a long veiw, I think one is entitled to report progress in the right direction. Japan may still be able to give us, and perhaps the United States, hard knocks in the Malayan region and in the Pacific, though as time goes on she may get harder knocks in return.

If the battle of Libya did not go so swiftly in our favour, as many hoped it would, it has certainly not gone in favour of Germany and Italy. Nor can any degree of caution in estimating events on the Russian front disguise the truth that the German army has suffered, or is suffering, a major disaster there.

Very few days now remain for Hitler to make good his New Year's boast to the German people, "that the year 1941 would bring complete and glorious victory". Indeed, I should not be surprised if there was some truth in the rumours that Hitler himself is taking a rest as a consequence of nervous overstrain. I should not like to be in his shoes, as he watches the hands of the clock he deliberately turned back in the direction of barbarism move slowly forward towards a day and hour of his inevitable and irrevocable doom—that is to say, towards the dawn of the day when civilised mankind will hail its redemption in freedom.

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

9—1—42 to 16—1—42.

Russia.—Not a day passes now but brings news of a fresh Russian success. It is refreshing that as one tunes his radio of a morning or opens his morning paper Russian successes, sometimes not singly, but in some number greet the eye or fall on the ear, as though to remind us that the Great Battle against the Axis is after all being steadily won in spite of temporary Pacific reverses. It is not merely the news of '137 Settlements recaptured in 3 days', not simply the admitted penetration of the German line at MOJAISK or the lifting of the siege of LENINGRAD, great as these events are, but the solid good news that the whole Russian front has now become a live wire, and that in addition to the 3 centres of counter-offensive at LENINGRAD, MOSCOW and the CRIMEA reported last

week new centres of attack have developed at OREL, KHARKOV and in the Arctic and Karelian regions. Hitler—the Corporal-Commander-in-Chief—has already lost the first of his battles since he took over command, or perhaps, the first definite defeat of the German army had been reserved for his assumption of Generalship. The German hosts are fleeing, and German guns and shells abandoned in the flight are being used for the annihilation of the Germans themselves, Hitler's excuses that his 'Winter line is pliable' or 'fluid' carry no conviction. He himself admits his inability to construct a 'Trench Defence' in the appalling cold. Like a wounded beast at bay, Hitler no doubt continues to be violent, but experienced observers discern the final pangs of a disintegrating Nazism.

From north to south, the battle situation is as follows:—In the *Arctic* area the Russian offensive has been resumed, and in the *Karelian Area* Russian activity is making the Finns seriously to think of peace. *LENINGRAD* is no longer a beleagured city; the Russian offensive on the Valdoi Hills has been resumed, and STARAYA RUSSA near lake Ilmen has been evacuated.

In the *MOSCOW* centre success has followed success; MESCHOVSK, MOSALSK, VETCHINEO, SERPEYSK, LYUDINOVO, TIJANOVA, KIROV, GOROKOVO and MEDYN have successively fallen. The railway line from MALA-YAROSLAVAETS to KALUGA has been seized, and the Russian pincers have closed round MOJAISK, having already reached RUZA and BOROVSK, within 30 miles north and south of this city, which is the very fulcrum of the whole German defensive system.

In the south, *OREL* has been surrounded, and *KHARKOV* the heart of Eastern UKRAINE has been reached.

In the *CRIMEA*, in the far south, BALACLAVA, rich with historic memories, has been recaptured; SEBASTOPOL's garrison is making sorties and the line of retreat through PEREKOP is in danger of being cut off.

It seems that foes—no less deadly that the Russian armies and the Russian winter are appearing in the German rear. 'The bases of Hitler's Germany', M. Lozovsky tells us, have begun to give way. Hunger, poverty and loss of man-power are destroying German morale. The last reserves are being rushed up: 'Cripples, old men and youths' are thrown into the battle; armies of occupation are transferred to the battle theatre. German soldiers, in occupied FRANCE and BELGIUM, so

called up are said to be unwilling to go; and to punish their refusal special concentration camps are being opened. German arms production is also dwindling in the occupied countries, particularly in FRANCE, for lack of materials and lack of enthusiasm, in CZECHO-SLOVAKIA owing to sabotage, and in ITALY for lack of food and shortage of labour. All kinds of woollen-wear, borrowed or plundered, feminine or other are being hurried to the battle-front. Recently a German was sentenced, and put to death immediately, for stealing some woollens intended for the soldiers. From the first of January GERMANY has gone dry, not by choice but by compulsion; only industrial alcohol will be manufactured. To such desperate straits has Nazi GERMANY been driven by the rashness of one man. His reckless advance upon ROSTOV and TIKHVIN and MOSCOW in the face of approaching winter is now having its revenge under the combined attacks of the Soviet armies;, and the British and American planes and tanks, led by General January.

Libya.—SOLLUM has fallen, and HALFAYA is on its last legs. Some precarious supplies are reaching HALFAYA by air, but water for which she depended on SOLLUM hitherto will be no longer obtainable.

The main body of Rommel's forces retreating from JADABAYA is falling back upon EL AGHEILA. British advanced posts have reached MARADA, 50 miles beyond EL AGHEILA.

Hitler is believed to be massing his *Luftwaffe* in the 'toe' of ITALY for an assault on MALTA by air on the model of that on CRETE. MALTA has experienced 200 raids in 5 weeks. On January 13, there were as many as 17 alerts.

Far East.—News from the Pacific continues to be sombre. After putting up a stout resistance to the south of the Slim and Barnam rivers, our forces have fallen back on SERAMBUR to the south. KUALA LUMPUR has been evacuated, its mines flooded, and its rubber stocks destroyed. TEBONG (MALACCA) has been attacked, and MUAR (MALACCA STRAITS) has been raided. KLANG, RANGOON and MOULMEIN have been again attacked from the air. SINGAPORE is threatened, and has just had its first large-scale day-light air-raid from 128 hostile planes. The NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES have been invaded; TARAKAN (N. E. BORNEO) taken; MINAHASSA (N. CELEBES) invaded but resisting with her 50 secret aerodromes in the neighbourhood; and GORONTALO (N. CELEBES) and TORENTE, SEREMBAN and SERPANG, all in MOLUCCAS have been raided or reached or occupied. In the PHILIPPINES Mac

Arthur's army, forced to retreat, has withdrawn into the BATAAN PENINSULA, CORREGIDOR and the fortifications in MANILA Bay. In Mid-Pacific TUTUILA (SAMOA ISLANDS) has been attacked. Enough for a week.

Unwelcome as these tidings are, there is nothing to discourage one if one could visualise the whole battle area—in the East and the West—as a *single* indivisible front. Then one could see that the ebb in the East is the inevitable result of the advancing tide in the West. But there has been no neglect of the East. We have Mr. Eden's assurance that 'in actual fact' our forces have been reinforced several times ever since 1939. If they still proved insufficient it was the result of a 'deliberate decision' to reinforce the western half of the battle-front, rather than starve both the eastern and western fronts, and thus court disaster on all fronts.

From the other side of the Atlantic Col. Frank Knox has reiterated the same reasoning from the American point of view. 'The American Navy's immediate task' he has said, 'is the convoying of vital supplies in the North and South Atlantic, and the Pacific'. Mr. A. V. Alexander, our First Lord of the Admiralty has neatly put the case. 'BRITAIN should never take her eyes off the centre—the Axis Powers of EUROPE'—quite so. When Hitler is finished, the whole Axis will collapse, in the East as well as in the West. Once Hitler is beaten JAPAN will go. Once Hitler succumbs all the liberated Allied forces in the West, on land, air and sea can be transferred to the East to bring the Pacific miscreant to his knees.

This does not mean however that the East has been left in the lurch. There may be no dramatic show-down in the East, even as there was none, these two years in the West, but that the Allied strength is being rapidly built up in the East is borne out by the following significant events:—

1. While the British line in MALAYA is receding, British resistance in the same area is simultaneously mounting. In the Slim river engagement, we are told, the Japanese who came in 'myriads' 'like ants' were slaughtered in 'unbelievable' numbers.

2. The largescale air attack on SINGAPORE with 128 planes has been 'defeated'.

3. The Japanese have learnt to respect the R. A. F., of which THAILAND's air bases have already had a good taste.

4. American resistance in the PHILIPPINES is increasing. According to the latest news the Japanese forces were 'shattered and dispersed' in a 24-hour artillery engagement. American bombers have successfully attacked Japanese naval concentrations at MINDANAO and DAVAO.

5. The Dutch, more aware of the threatening danger and better prepared than the other Allies, have already established a record of naval successes. 'A Japanese ship a day' seems to be their motto. They have also gone into action on the SARAWAK border.

6. The Chinese victory at CHANGSHA has blocked the Japanese landward route to the West. Chinese forces massed in BURMA defend the BURMA ROAD.

7. Wavell would not have been posted to his present command without provision for re-inforcements; General Pownall would not have declared 'Make no mistake. You can rest assured the tide will turn here, as it has already turned after many days in EUROPE and AFRICA'; Captain H. H. Balfour, our Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Air would not have said, 'Our Squadrons there (in the FAR EAST) are not going to be left unsupported' and *Reuter's* Special Correspondent in MALAYA would not have come out with the oracular statement, 'There may be a lull in the fighting for a few days until the Japanese catch up and contact our forward lines, but more cheering news in the form of a dramatic announcement, which may change the situation considerably in our favour, can be expected at any moment'.

The Nine-Power Conference.—Following the German mass executions of unoffending hostages as a reprisal for political assassination in occupied countries, Mr. Churchill declared, jointly with President Roosevelt, that the punishment of these crimes would hereafter take its place among the major purposes of the war. The Conference of the Governments of nine occupied countries, with ENGLAND, AMERICA, RUSSIA and CHINA as observers, which met on the 13th at St James's Palace in LONDON on the initiative of the occupied powers themselves, is the first step taken towards realisation of this resolve. As Mr. Eden who opened the Conference observed, its immediate purpose is to prove that the German New Order is a sham, a false facade behind which GERMANY tries to conceal its oppression and brutality. The ultimate object of the Conference is to make post-war arrangements to bring the offenders to book through legal processes. These crimes

were by no means accidental, but the result of a deliberate policy of cruelty and bestiality, based on Nazi ideologies, worked out to the smallest detail. The Conference therefore passed a resolution stating that among their principal war aims one was 'the punishment through the channel of organised justice, of those guilty and responsible for those crimes, whether they have ordered them, perpetrated them, or in any way participated in them.' As the Netherlands Minister pointed out at the Conference, it will not be a mere *wish* for justice but it must and will be organised; it will not only seek out to punish those personally guilty of the barbarities, but also to eradicate the hateful Nazi doctrine supporting it, though it will not make whole races or communities suffer.

Matters American.—1. Mr. William Bullitt, President Roosevelt's special envoy in the Near East will arrive in INDIA to study the allocation of Lease and Lend assistance.

2. A Latin American Conference opens on Thursday at RIO DE JANEIRO under the Presidentship of the President of BRAZIL, to evolve a common formula of action against the Axis. The Powers may agree to place their raw materials and bases at the disposal of the U. S. Mr. Sumner Welles, Assistant Secretary of State, is representing the U. S.

3. The U. S. has announced a 400 million dollar programme for the production of synthetic rubber at 400,000 tons yearly.

4. A Joint Defence Mexican-U. S. Commission has been set up on the model of the 1940 Canadian-U. S. Commission. MEXICO, which was definitely pro-Axis at the beginning of the war, is veering round. The present Commission is a good augury for the success of the Pan-American Conference meeting at RIO DE JANEIRO.

A Brain Trust to Beat the Nazis.—At a recent conference, British Scientists and Engineers met to discuss the part they should take in the War Effort. The Free *German* League of Culture in BRITAIN has sent the conference a message of co-operation, stating that they too formed 'an integral part of the Grand Alliance fighting Fascism.'

Official.—With the signing of the Grand Alliance of 26 Powers, and the posting of Wavell to the S.W. Pacific Command as officer responsible to all the Allies, the office of a Resident British Minister at SINGAPORE having become illogical and superfluous, Mr. A. Duff Cooper who occupied this post has been recalled to LONDON.

British and Indian Land Forces in IRAQ and IRAN have been transferred from the Indian to the MIDDLE EAST Command under General Auchinleck. Thus provision has been made to guard the outer defences of INDIA, both from the East and the West, by Wavell and Auchinleck, two of the most distinguished soldiers of the Empire.

A Balkan Union.—The Kings of GREECE and YUGOSLAVIA have entered into a pact of mutual, political, economic and military assistance, which would seem to herald a Balkan Union.

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES.

Date. / Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.
5—1—42 (Monday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
NIGHT :—			
The docks at BREST and CHERBOURG.	Damage heavy		
A large enemy supply ship off the DUTCH FRISIAN Islands.		No loss.	
LIBYA.			
Enemy positions and gun emplacements in the HALFAYA area.			
Patrol over JEDABAYA region.	Many more planes damaged.		1 plane.
The harbour at TOBRUK.			
The landing ground at BU AMUD.			
Roads at BUERAT EL HSUN.		3 planes.	
EASTERN FRONT. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and aircraft on the aerodrome along the whole Front.		6 planes.	14 planes.
FAR EAST—MALAYA. (By American and British planes).			
Reconnaissances over North-West and North-East MALAYA.			
6—1—42 (Tuesday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
NIGHT :—			
The docks at BREST and CHERBOURG.			
Objectives in West and North-West GERMANY.			
Enemy Convoys off the DUTCH coast.		1 plane.	
LIBYA.			
Enemy positions in HALFAYA.			
EASTERN FRONT. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole Front.		2 planes.	23 planes.
FAR EAST—THAILAND. (By American and British planes).			
BANGKOK.			

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES—*cont.*

Date. / Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.
7—1—42 (Wednesday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
DAY:—			
Enemy shipping off the coast of NORWAY.	Explosions started.		
Night:—			
The German naval bases at BREST and ST. NAZAIRE.		No loss.	
LIBYA.			
Stores and dumps at RAS-EL-ALI.			
Motor transport and shipping near BUERAT EL HSUN.	A ship hit and set on fire.		
Enemy lines of communication west of EL AGHEILA.			
Shipping at TRIPOLI.			
MEDITERRANEAN.			
Two ships in the central MEDITERRANEAN	Both hit.		
EASTERN FRONT. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole Front.		4 planes.	11 planes.
FAR EAST—THAILAND. (By American and British planes).			
BANGKOK.	Big fires started.		8 planes.
MALAYA.			
The Japanese aerodrome at GONG (KEDAH).			
Another aerodrome at KUANTAN.			
8—1—42 (Thursday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
NIGHT:—			
The Naval base at BREST.	Big fires started.	2 planes.	
The docks at CHERBOURG.			
LIBYA.			
Enemy communications west of EL AGHEILA.			
Transport vehicles and coastal shipping bringing stores forward from TRIPOLI to points on the coast of the Gulf SIRTE.			
Enemy defences in the HALFAYA area.			
Air fight over the JADABAYA region.		1 plane.	7 planes. Many damaged.
EASTERN FRONT. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole Front.		5 planes.	19 planes.
FAR FAST—PACIFIC. (By American and British planes).			
An enemy vessel north of ANAMBAS Islands.			
MALAYA.			
The aerodrome at IPOH.	Big fires started.		
9—1—42 (Friday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
DAY:—			
Air combats over Northern FRANCE.		No loss.	2 planes.
NIGHT:—			
The Naval base at BREST.		1 plane.	
LIBYA.			
Enemy mechanised vehicles in the EL AGHEILA area and on the road from JEDABAYA to EL AGHEILA.			
The landing ground at GAMBUT.			
EASTERN FRONT. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats aircraft on the aerodromes and support to the ground forces along the whole Front.		6 planes.	42 planes.
FAR EAST—THAILAND. (By American and British planes).			
The aerodrome at SUNGEI PATANI.			
Shipping, a railway junction and military buildings at SINGORA.			

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES—*cont.*

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.
9—1—42 (Friday)—*cont.*			
MALAYA.			
A Japanese occupied aerodrome in MALAYA.			
Enemy merchant vessels off the KUANTAN Estuary.			
10—1—42 (Saturday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes.)			
NIGHT :—			
Aerodromes in the low countries.			
The Germen Naval bases at WILHELMSHAVEN and EMDEN.			
A strongly escorted enemy convoy off the DUTCH coast.	A small tanker and a supply ship directly hit.		
The docks at BOULOGNE.		6 bombers.	
LIBYA.			
Enemy positions and communications in HALFAYA.			
The harbour at TRIPOLI.			
Stores and dumps at SIRTE and BUERAT EL HSUN.	Fires and explosions started.	4 planes.	
EASTERN FRONT. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats, aircraft on the aerodromes and support to the ground forces along the whole Front.		2 planes.	11 planes.
FAR EAST—MALAYA. (By American and British planes).			
Reconnaissance over North-West and North-East MALAYA.			
NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES.			
Japanese troop and battle-ships off TARAKAN.	One troopship hit ; 1 cruiser damaged.		3 planes.
PHILIPPINES.			
A Japanese battle-ship in the Gulf of **DAVAO.**	Hit.		

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.
11—1—42 (Sunday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
NIGHT :—			
The German Naval base at BREST.	No loss.		
LIBYA.			
Concentrations of enemy transport and petrol stores west of EL AGHEILA.	A large fire started.		
Air duel over the JADABAYA region.		1 plane.	
Motor transport at BUERAT, EL HSUN.			
The harbour and shipping at TRIPOLI.			
Military objectives at HOMS.			
EASTERN FRONT. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats aircraft on the aerodromes and support to the ground forces along the whole Front.		3 planes.	12 planes.
FAR EAST—TARAKAN. (N. E. I.).			
Japanese warships off TARAKAN.			
MALAYA.			
Japanese positions near KUALA LUMPUR.			

ENEMY Air Raids over ALLIED Territories.

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.	Aircraft losses for Allies.
6—1—42 (Tuesday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
No information available.			
FAR EAST. (By Jap planes).			
BURMA.			
RANGOON area.		No bombs dropped.	
N. E. Indies.			
AMBOINA.			
RUSSIA. (By German planes).			
MOSCOW.		2 planes.	

ENEMY Air Raids over ALLIED Territories—*cont.*

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.	Aircraft losses for Allies.
7—1—42 (Wednesday).				
	BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
	No information available.			
	MEDITERRANEAN.			
	MALTA.		1 plane.	
	RUSSIA.			
	MOSCOW.		2 planes.	
	FAR EAST. (By Jap planes).			
	PHILIPPINES.			
	CORREGIDOR Fortifications.			
	BURMA.			
	MOULMEIN.			
	RANGOON (only an alert).			
8—1—42 (Thursday).				
	BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
	NIGHT:—			
	Two coastal points in South-East ENGLAND.	Slight damage and no casualties.		
	MEDITERRANEAN.			
	MALTA.	No damage.		
	FAR EAST—BURMA. (By Jap planes).			
	Vicinity of **MOULMEIN.**			
	MALAYA.			
	KLANG.			
	SINGAPORE,	7 casualties.		
9—1—42 (Friday).				
	BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
	No information available.			
	MEDITERRANEAN.			
	MALTA.			
	FAR EAST—BURMA. (By Jap planes).			
	RANGOON.	Very slight damage.		
	TARAKAN—(N. E. I.).			
	Military and Naval objectives at TARAKAN.			
10—1—42 (Saturday).				
	BRITAIN (By German planes).			
	No information available.			
	FAR EAST—MALAYA. (By Jap planes).			
	The port of MUAR.			
	TEBONG.			
	PHILIPPINES.			
	FORTIFICATIONS of MANILA BAY.			
	SAMOS Islands.			
	The Naval station at TUTUILA.			
11—1—42 (Sunday).				
	BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
	DAY:—			
	South-West coast of ENGLAND.		1 bomber.	
	Patrol over the ENGLISH CHANNEL.			1 fighter.
	NIGHT:—			
	No information available.			
	MEDITERRANEAN.			
	MALTA.	Slight civilian damage.		
	FAR EAST—NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES. (By Jap planes).			
	TARAKAN.			
	MALAYA.			
	SINGAPORE.			
12—1—42 (Monday).				
	BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
	No information available.			
	MEDITERRANEAN.			
	MALTA.			
	FAR EAST—MALAYA. (By Jap planes).			
	TAMPIN and **MUAR.**			
	PHILIPPINES.			
	American positions north-east of MANILA.			

SIDE LIGHTS.

GRAND ALLIANCE. Alliances, even Grand Alliances, have been numerous in history. But not alliances of twenty-six nations, nor alliances which not only pledge the full resources of twenty-six nations towards the damnation of two-and-a-bit powers, but also pledge each of those nations to participation in the war *until the end.* None is to make separate peace.

The Triple Alliance, for instance, in the last war agreed not to make a separate peace, but when AMERICA joined them in a grand coalition, there was no such undertaking. AMERICA was an 'associated power' but not an 'allied' power ; she carried on separate negotiations before the armistice, and signed a separate peace.

We have to go back a century and quarter for the last parallel—when the Allies bound themselves not to lay down arms until Napoleon, who had just escaped from ELBA, had been put away for good.

As to INDIA, with or without a signature, she is in the war to the end. Indeed she is at the centre of it. Not only are a million of her men defending the eastern and western gateways, but she is, or is well on the way to being, the eastern arsenal of the whole Alliance, and the sooner certain politicians realise that the inexorable facts of world-history now take but small account of their personal hobbies, the better for all concerned.

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TIME. Never has the time factor been so important as just now, except perhaps just after DUNKIRK. What would Hitler not give to skip three months of time, and find himself no more damaged than he is with a balmy spring in front of him? Instead, if Generals January and February live up to their military reputation, his retreating, disheartened armies have the very worst of the Russian winter still to look forward to, while the better-clothed and better-fed Russians, with bitterly revengeful hearts, prod and trample the recoiling foe in a brilliantly-planned counter-offensive.

In the FAR EAST, again, time is the essence of things. It's a mainly naval war that is taking place there, and preparation for the Allied naval offensive to regain what the Japanese *blitzkrieg* temporarily has snatched is a matter of time. That being so, every day's successful resistance to the enemy is something gained. HONGKONG's historic sixteen days was something of a victory in itself. So is the skilful, plucky withdrawal down the MALAY PENINSULA. It is costing the enemy more than heavy casualties—it is costing him precious time. And perhaps above all praiseworthy is General Macarthur's astonishing

defensive campaign against the invading hordes in the PHILIPPINES. That courageous garrison may or may not hold out till succour arrives, but it is certain that they are very splendidly helping to turn the time-factor to the Allies' advantage.

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HIGH COMMANDS. (No, not Congress.) There seems to be still doubt as to who is to command either the Allied troops in INDIA, or the same troops on the field of battle in, say, THAILAND. General Wavell becomes a world figure with his appointment of Supreme Commander in the South-West Pacific. When this great man came to INDIA from CYRENAICA, Dr. Goebbels derided him as "ENGLAND's worst general" creeping to honorable retirement. Twenty-six nations seem to agree rather with another and better-qualified German, General Keitel, who early in the war pronounced him the most formidable military leader in BRITAIN.

As to our own immediate interests, they say that General Auchinleck after his great job of work in North AFRICA, will come to take over INDIA'S responsibilities, so heavily increased since he left us last year, but from all one can make out, we suppose that Marshal Chiang Kai Shek will be the Supreme Commander of our forces if and when we meet the Japs anywhere much west of SINGAPORE. And could there be a better choice than that great man, who has not only proved himself an outstanding military leader over five years of disadvantageous war, but a regenerator and consolidator of a plucky but division-ridden people?

On the Axis side, on the other hand, there is little talk of promotions. Field-Marshals on the European front are stellenbosched by the half dozen by Corporal Hitler, and General Rommel is now hardly likely to be made Supreme Commander of anything elsewhere. That great Supreme Chief, the "Defender of Islam" himself, Benito Mussolini, has sunk into impotent obscurity, what time his pupil and rival plays his personal infallibility card in a frantic effort to make the best of a bad hand!

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WORLD-WAR and the MARITIME FACTOR Apart from dubbing the Pacific imbroglio as primarily a naval war, we are apt to forget how tremendously the whole world-wide conflict is affected by the struggle for sea-power. The Battle of the Atlantic does not loom so large as it did; blockade is a dull subject compared with the German retreat in RUSSIA or the Japanese invasion of Pacific islands; the adventures of air-squadrons and mechanized divisions are more thrilling than 'the Navy's silent watch'.

It ought not to be so. The keen student of the war should have the vast importance of sea-power constantly in his mind when assessing the chances

of war this year, especially now that both the greater oceans are themselves battle-fronts, as well as the highways to land battle-fronts from MURMANSK to PORT DARWIN.

The object of all naval operations is to deny to the enemy the use of the sea-routes, while keeping those routes open for one's own and neutral shipping proceeding on its lawful occasions. In wartime these sea-routes have a doubled importance, for they are the channels by which (a) food and munitions and (b) armed forces and their equipment reach belligerents in overseas theatres.

Before JAPAN came in, we were doing very nicely. We had driven one of Hitler's vain hopes, the Italian Navy into its harbours; after serious difficulty, and with the non-belligerent help of the U. S. A., we found ourselves on top in the Atlantic; and GERMANY's own sea-power, bar a reduced fleet of submarines and a few armed raiders, was crippled by the boxing-up of three capital ships in French harbours. JAPAN was always a danger, but if she should come in so most probably would AMERICA, and the addition to the Axis side of the scale would, we thought, be more than counter-balanced.

That reasonable reckoning has been momentarily shaken by the success of the sudden and treacherous Japanese naval *blitz*. The Americans took a bad knock at PEARL HARBOUR, WAKE ISLAND and GUAM ISLAND; we took an equally nasty knock when *Prince of Wales* and *Repulse* went to the bottom. Neither the U. S. A. fleet based on HAWAII, nor the British Far-Eastern Squadron based on SINGAPORE were left strong enough to meet the capital ships of the Japanese Navy—in short the anticipated cordon that was to prevent the Japanese southward drive for territory and materials, is—temporarily-broken! JAPAN, in command of the sea routes of the South-Western Pacific, is hastening to make hay while the sun shines.

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REALITIES ARE GRAVE-BUT MANAGEABLE!

So there will be a painful interval! The objective remains the same. The Allies have GOT to restore the sea roads, because they have garrisons and armies thousands of miles apart to rescue or reinforce, because they have land-offensives to undertake, and see through before the Axis powers will cry 'Hold, enough!' The WASHINGTON Conference may have said nothing as to how they are going to tackle the problem, (who knows, for instance, *where* important units, squadrons, fleets, of the two greatest maritime powers are to-day, or how near they are to battle with the naval panzers of the Japanese?), but they ARE tackling the problem because they *must*, and this time the value of air support is not likely to be neglected, either. No one can say *when* the present maritime position will be reversed,

but there is something in the tone of recent WASHINGTON and LONDON announcements which makes it certain that the final result can be measured with confidence, despite the fact that the Axis powers have only two immediately *vital* sea-routes to maintain, the Central Mediterranean for the Germans, and the South China Sea for the Japanese, compared with the great net-work of sea-lines required by the Allies for the success of their fortunes in BRITAIN, SCANDINAVIA, NORTH-AFRICA, RUSSIA, CHINA, and South EAST-ASIA.

And now, if you have the patience, glance back at our paragraph above labelled "Time"!

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THE OUTRAGED GIANT. AMERICA has very definite economic and strategic interests in the PHILIPPINES and EAST INDIES. Their government and the responsible section of their people have long realised it, but .... Well, never mind about those times. Hear what Raymond Gram Swing has just said about *all* Americans now. "The chief obstruction to the achievement of maximum production, *the lack of a sense of danger and the unreadiness to accept sacrifice*, have been swept aside. The Japanese......have destroyed in the mind of every American his stubborn feeling that things can't have been as bad as the prophets have been warning."

The President, as usual, said some very important things in his speech of Jan 6.

—AMERICA has not been "stunned" by the Japanese successes in their surprise attack. Neither have Americans been terrified into diverting their resources from RUSSIA and BRITAIN to the Pacific and continental defence. JAPAN has thus failed in the strategic purpose of her surprise.

—American forces will be used *anywhere throughout the world* (*including Britain*) where they may help to crush Nazism.

—AMERICA will not stop at mere recovery of places lost. Nazism (including both "Hitler's Italian and Japanese chessman", are to be wiped out for ever.

—Global stategical planning will be paralleled in U. S. A. by *totalitarian production.*

—Whereas in 1940 AMERICA was spending 10% of her national income on defence, and during 1941, 15%, she is at once to begin to spend 50% now. £ 14,000,000,000 is the budget figure for 1942—as big as BRITAIN's top figure and more quickly disbursed.

And now a few illuminating facts in a nutshell. The programme includes €0,000 planes, 45,000, tanks, and 8,000,000 tons deadweight, of shipping.

The American townsman's car is the counterpart of the Indian townsman's bicycle. So in earnest is this vast people that from January the production of civil motor cars is to cease altogether!

P. S. The speech announcing these facts was interrupted 29 times in 37 minutes, by outbursts of thunderous applause!

A mighty being is awake. AMERICA is not only in the war, she is 'all in'. Whatever shocks and jars the Allies may receive in the next few months, the days of the transgressor are numbered.

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MILITARY VIRTUOSITY. The Japanese High Command have provided some 'kick' for the Japanese people, by the spaciousness (and initial success) of their commitments. Widespread co-ordination of land, sea, and air-arms—and all that sort of thing. But that High Command has problems of alarming magnitude too. They are believed to have half a million troops spread over South CHINA, INDO-CHINA, THAILAND the PHILIPPINES, MALAYA and the EAST INDIES. The supply and reinforcement of these scattered armies must be an emormous job, especially as she dare not take many troops from CHINA, or at any rate from the MANCHUKUO area. It is very arguable that the effective *maintenance* of all these armies as striking forces is going to be a greater difficulty for JAPAN, than is the *assembling* by the Allies of a force or forces sufficient to mop up the enemy one or two batches at a time.

BRITAIN'S WARTIME DIET.

RATION FIGURES COMPARED WITH PRE-WAR AVERAGES.

STILL THE BEST-FED NATION IN EUROPE.

by

E. A. Montague (*In a recent B. B. C. Talk*).

Recently our household received a parcel of food from an old friend in South Africa. It caused great delight, particularly to my small son, because the contents included chocolate, which is hard to get here now, and crystallised fruits which are unobtainable. But we here sometimes feel almost ashamed of accepting these generous presents of food from people overseas, deeply grateful though we are, because **we are really nothing like so short of things to eat as our enemies want you to think we are.**

Let me tell you just what our food situation is to-day. We are getting less but in most cases not much less, of all the main foods than we did before

the war. I will give the ration figure for each of them, and also, for comparison's sake, the average pre-war comsumption per head of each food. You will need to remember that this pre-war average includes both the rich, who could afford plenty of everything, and the poor who, in many cases, could not afford to eat much of certain foods. The averages for well-to-do people before the war were probably higher than those which I am going to quote.

THE COMPARISON.

Our meat ration is 1*s* 2*d* worth, which buys a little over a pound of meat with bone, per week. The pre-war average was 1¾ lbs., without bone. Butter, margarine and cooking fat 10 ozs. a week, almost as high as the pre-war averages but not more than 2 ozs. of it may be butter. Bacon and ham, 4 ozs. a week-pre-war average 5½. Sugar, 12 ozs–pre-war just over 1 lb. Cheese 3 ozs., which is more than the pre-war average, and special classes of workers get 8 ozs.

Tea, 2 ozs–pre-war 2 to 6 ozs. Eggs from 2 to 5 a month according to the season-pre-war average 15. Jam, marmalade, syrup, treacle and mince-meat, a pound every four weeks—very little below the pre-war average. Canned foods about 4 ozs. a week—no comparative pre-war figure is available here. As for milk, the ration varies. For children it is up to the pre-war level ; for adults, a good deal below it.

The only rations, therefore, which are greatly below pre-war levels are those of meat, eggs, and for adults, milk. Bread is unrationed, so are vegetables, except onions, and we are expected to make up for the absence of meat chiefly with vegetables.

A good many unrationed foods are much scarcer than before the war. For instance, no fresh or canned fruit is now imported, except oranges and a few lemons, and the oranges all go to young children. Very few onions are imported, and the total of imported and home-grown onions will only provide a ration of 2 lbs. a head a year.

Supplies of such foods as cakes, biscuits and chocolates are greatly reduced, because so much less sugar and fats are reaching the makers. Fish is unrationed, and as plentiful as one can expect, when one remembers that thousands of our fishermen are now serving on mine-sweepers.

THE GENERAL PICTURE.

Of alcoholic drinks, imported wines are naturally becoming very scarce indeed, and their prices, which are uncontrolled, are becoming enormous. Whisky is also becoming scarce. You can buy it over a bar by a tot, but it is difficult to buy a bottle. Beer is scarcer than it was, though not so much so as whisky.

The general picture, then, is one of a diet which is plentiful, but rather dull. After more than two years of German blockade **we are still the best-fed nation in Europe,** with the possible exceptions of Sweden, Portugal and Switzerland. Certainly we are incomparably better fed than either the Germans or the Italians.

If it becomes necessary to restrict our rations still more, as it probably will, we can tighten our belts several holes more without feeling it seriously.

RESERVOIR OF DEMOCRACY'S ARSENAL.
LATIN AMERICA'S POTENTIALITIES.
ABUNDANCE OF MINERALS AND COMMODITIES.
U. S. A. REPLACES JAPAN AS BUYER.

by

" Germanicus "

" Inter-Americanism has passed from the domain of conventions into the sphere of positive action ".

It was with these words that President Roosevelt hailed the determination of the Latin American States to throw in their lot with the fighting democracies. These countries, occupying the greatest productive area of a world unaffected, and likely to remain unaffected, by war time devastation, can render aid of immense value to the democratic cause. Signs of tremendous economic development and industrial activity show that Latin America is not slow to realise this great opportunity.

BRAZIL'S IRON-ORE.

In any list of essential war materials, iron takes pride of place. Brazil's reserves of iron-ore are the largest in the world. There are also large deposits in Chile and Venezuela. Production is only just beginning to get under way, but as far back as 1939 the output of Chile alone was only just under 2,000,000 tons a year. One-fifth of the world's supply of lead comes from Latin America, and similarly, one-fifth of the world's supply of copper. Tin is becoming ever a more important export. Bolivia is already producing 16 per cent of the world's output, and it is reckoned that this amount could be doubled without any difficulty. Two more important metals invaluable in the manufacture of hard steels are vanadium and molybdenum. Peru is the world's largest producer of the first, and together with Mexico, produces 38 per cent of the world's supply. There are important deposits in four Latin American countries of the second metal, and production is increasing rapidly.

Reserves in Brazil of nickel are described as "enormous", and production is just beginning.

Fifty per cent of the world's supply of antimony comes from these countries; antimony is a metal necessary in processing lead.

Many other priceless minerals are found in abundance, particularly platinum, manganese, bauxite and tungsten.

RICH IN COMMODITIES ALSO.

The wealth of the continent is not only in minerals. Immediately before the war, the third largest export trade of the Latin American republics was in meat.

Other commodities important to the war effort include wool, which is rapidly assuming immense importance; in 1940, $ 47,000,000 worth was sent to the United States alone. Cotton is grown extensively.

In view of the acute distress caused by leather shortage to the German armies, it is good to note how well supplied Latin America is with this commodity. In 1940 Argentina alone sent $ 14,500,000 worth of hides to the U. S. A.

PETROLEUM—TRUMP CARD.

And in the all-important factor of petroleum, Latin America holds the trump card, accounting for 15 per cent of the world's production.

Output in Venezuela in 1940 exceeded 27,000,000 tons, or nine per cent of the world's supply, Mexican oilfields are among the world's most famous.

And, suddenly, this great source of supply is no longer at Japanese disposal. War has cut it off irrevocably. War will bring no violent disruption to the export trade of South America. What Japan has been buying will now go smoothly to the arsenal of the democracies.

ALTERNATIVE MARKET.

The United States has for a little time been awake to the dangers of Japan's bid for South American supplies, and has already eased the pressure by providing an alternative market. The freezing of Japanese funds last July was the first step in wrecking Japanese plans for domination.

Now the surplus of all strategic raw materials will travel northwards, and not to the Orient. The trade returns of various South American countries already show a marked swing round in their trade balance with the United States in favour of South America. It is impossible to over-estimate the service which Latin America is rendering to the cause of freedom. A New World is in existence to redress the balance of the "New Order".

GERMANY'S PART IN DRAGGING JAPAN INTO WAR.

WORK OF REICHSWEHR SECRET SERVICE AND GESTAPO.

HOW REICHENAU AND OTT EXECUTED PLAN.

By

An Ex-Officer of the German Army in the "Manchester Guardian."

The attack launched by Japan on the United States and Great Britain is part of a plan which the German Reichswehr General von Reichenau, had explained years ago to a General Staff college. Here are some details about how this plan was executed by the German secret Reichswehr service, in collaboration with the Gestapo's Foreign Department.

The German Foreign Office policy under Baron von Neurath was strongly anti-Japanese. Dr. Sthamer, of an old Hamburg family, warned his superiors again and again against Japanese trade expansion, and their flooding of vital world markets.

Ribbentrop changed all that. Von Ott, a confidential agent of the Reichswehr, had been ordered to Japan as Military Attaché, and the Reichswehr took matters into their own hands.

Together with Ribbentrop, they agreed to give Ott "full powers" as Ambassador to Japan. On many occasions the German High Command had disagreed with Ribbentrop, and serious clashes occurred, but on the Far Eastern situation they agreed completely. Japan had to be the great Axis pillar in the Pacific.

PATH OF NORMAL DIPLOMACY ABANDONED.

General von Ott had however, little chance to pursue his policy by the ordinary ways and means which an Ambassador usually has at his disposal. Japan had no interest in acting as an emergency ally for Germany.

Thus Ott left the path of normal diplomacy. He studied the family life of high Japanese army and navy officers. Japan's proverbial secrecy did not make things easier for him. But soon his parties at the hot spring resort of Ikao were well known, and visitors flocked to them. Friends were made. Ott was able to widen and enlarge these friendships, and use them to win influence within the Japanese War Office.

ANOTHER BARRIER.

Barring the way to closer collaboration was the Japanese Home Office, suspicious of every foreigner, whether he was German, Italian, British or American. The Japanese War Office tried hard to persuade the Home Office

to get friendlier with the German Embassy. It was not until Ott had success with the Japanese Home Office, that he was able to make himself agreeable to the entire Government.

He suggested that, in order to prevent anti-Nazi German refugees in Japan from giving assistance to Britain or the United States, a special German police commissar should assist the Japanese Home Office and foreign police in a consultative capacity. Thus Herr Franz Huber, of the Berlin Gestapo, found his way into Japan's police headquarters.

EMBASSY STAFF OF 3,000.

Relations grew closer and friendlier. The German staff at the Embassy in Tokyo counted 3,000 members. One hundred picked German airmen were giving Japan their experience, and 300 technical experts of the German Ordnance Department were employed by the Japanese War Office in a "consultative capacity".

Through these numerous Germans, Ott was able to complete his records on Japanese naval and army officers. Whenever friendly persuasion failed to convince a Japanese officer, blackmail was applied, and many acts of *hara-kiri* by Japanese officers might find their explanation in Ott's file.

To bring Japanese public opinion entirely over to the Nazi side, a fake attempt on Japan's Chief Fascist was staged. Baron Hiranuma was shot in the neck by an unknown man. Ott exploited this attempt to the utmost, and in August, 1941, when German and Italian consular officials were expelled from the United States because of their spying activities, they were able to settle down in Japan to continue their activities from that side of the ocean. Franz Huber had by then so established himself that he had only to denounce a foreigner in Japan for that person to be sent out of the country.

It is known that special experts on dive-bombing were sent to the Japanese fleet air arm, and their instructions were largely followed by the Japanese Admiralty and High Command. The lack of air sense on the part of the Japanese was supposed to be made up by unlimited fanaticism. It should always be remembered that Reichenau and Ott carried out their policy against even stronger opposition within their own ranks than was the case in Italy against the Axis Pact. The antipathy of the German army for the Japanese is traditional, but in these times of rational strategy, sentiment was of only secondary importance.

INTERNAL SITUATION IN JAPAN.

MORALE LIKE GERMANY'S AT END OF LAST WAR.

INADEQUATE LOCAL DEFENCE.

By

Alfred Downs in the Daily Mail.

[*Alfred Downs is an American author and newspaperman who has lived for many years in Japan. He has just left Tokyo and wrote this article immediately on his arrival in San Francisco*].

The internal situation in Japan at the time of my departure was degenerating so quickly that the army was confronted with the necessity of providing the nation with a decisive *blitz* victory over the democracies, and simultaneously solving the four-year conflict with China, or abdicating its power either peacefully or through an internal revolution.

National morale was sinking so quickly, as the standard of living of the masses fell below subsistence level, that informed Japanese as well as foreign circles were convinced that the nation would be unable to survive another winter without internal disorder.

OPPOSITION GROUP.

This degenerating situation was accompanied by the organisation of an opposition group, consisting of business men, members of the nobility, elder statesmen and close advisers to the Emperor and members of the Diet, all supported by the moderate army and navy group to which Admiral Nomura belonged.

To crush this opposition group, which was gaining increasing strength, and to prevent an internal uprising of the masses, Japan's military dictators, having convinced the extremists and members of the navy that there was no other choice, decided to strike before the winter in a desperate bid for domination in the Far East South Seas. They were willing to risk self-destruction by this final supreme effort, rather than surrender peacefully to the Emperor and the civilian populace. This leads to the following conclusions.

ALTERNATIVES BEFORE MILITARISTS.

The Japanese army and navy must secure a knock-out victory over the democracies during 1942 and sustain the nation with a successive series of victories to feed the masses, or they must suffer a complete and sudden collapse in morale and economy. Here are some of the latest facts sustaining this conclusion.

A comparison between German and Japanese morale finds that the latter is to-day similar to Germany's at the end of the last World War. In Japan

to-day there is nation-wide dissatisfaction and exhaustion, following four years of war against China. This was clearly in evidence before the outbreak of the present conflict. When I left Japan, an increasing number of civilians were being arrested for making open complaints against living conditions and the loss of increasing number of sons and husbands on China's battlefield. Shortages of butter, milk, eggs, vegetables and meat are so serious that local community associations have been instructed by Government to launch a nation-wide campaign to return to the "traditional diet" of rice, fish and seaweed.

REPORTS SUPPRESSED.

The authorities suppressed reports reaching the big city newspapers from provincial correspondents throughout Japan reporting damage to annual crops. The *Domei official Agency* was ordered to issue a statement minimising the danger, and alleging that Government had sufficient stocks "so that the country would not go hungry".

Apart from discontent at the shortage of food, the Japanese people are greatly apprehensive about the possible bombing of their towns by American Flying Fortresses. Although the Japanese blackout practices are perfect, people realise that the numerous canals encircling Tokyo including the Emperor's palace provide perfect guides leading pilots right to the heart of the capital. The shortage of materials, which at the time of the Anglo-American "freezing" order was already causing a decline in industrial war-time production, made it impossible for Government to complete its elaborate air raid shelter construction programme. Tokyo's only air raid protection is provided by the sub-way, which is only a few feet underground and can be pierced by heavy bombs. Fear of air raids is already causing many to move from the city to the villages in the interior. It is also realised by many that the army's anti-aircraft equipment is seriously deficient in quality and quantity. The Japanese army concentrated all the nation's resources in building up a strong offensive force for operations overseas, but few realise how seriously the army neglected to provide for home defence. While anti-aircraft guns are seriously lacking, searchlights are inefficient.

The drain on Japan's air power in China, and the massing of planes in Indo-China, Formosa and Hainan in preparation for attacks against the democracies has left only some hundreds of planes for the protection of the Japanese islands themselves. The statement that Tokyo and other principal Japanese cities are composed of wood and paper, making them vulnerable to incendiary bombing, is not inaccurate, for not only the homes of people but a large part of Japan's war materials are produced in small-sized plants housed in emergency wooden barracks, thus making Japanese industry as vulnerable to fire destruction as Japanese homes.

GERMANS' AMAZEMENT AND DISMAY.

German economic and war planning experts sent to help Tokyo threw their hands in dismay and amazement following their survey of Japanese defence. Asked to draw up a plan of defence, they requested figures of materials available. The Japanese Government refused to disclose them. The fact is that there were no materials available.

Sufficiently accurate reports have leaked out to indicate that Japan's *blitzkrieg* offensive, once it is stalled and once Japan's exhausted population is exposed to widespread air attacks, will develop into a *blitz* disaster. As one pro-American Japanese told me, "This is the only way that Japan's military dictatorship can be overthrown."

ECONOMIC POSITION OF JAPAN.
LIMITED RESOURCES OF WAR MATERIALS.
VULNERABILITY TO BLOCKADE.
TEMPORARY ADVANTAGE OF BUILT-UP SUPPLIES.

by

Donald Tyerman (In a recent B. B. C. Talk).

WHENEVER a new country joins in this world war we always start off by asking the same question—how strong are they economically ?

Now none of the figures we need about trade and production and arms expenditure has been published, at least not in any useful detail for some years. We can only make fairly intelligent guesses. We do know the natural resources of, say, Germany, Italy or Japan. We do know what their trade was, and what they had to import before they started to make ready for war. We know what industries they had, what man-power they had to draw on, and so on.

In the case of Japan, the problem is much more clear-cut than in the case of Italy or Germany. Japan, like Britain is an island. It is cut off by water from outside supplies and—what is more—is cut off from its allies, cut off completely.

The Germans and the Italians, in one way or another, have been able to draw on the production and the trade of the whole European Continent. They have been able to help each other, and to arrange the industry and the grioulture of other countries for their benefit.

SEA-BORNE SUPPLIES.

Not so Japan. By and large, the Japanese have got to stand on their own feet, to make do with what they have got. **Axis or no Axis, Japan stands alone**

Now what sort of a guess can we make about Japan's strength ? There is one unknown factor which makes guessing difficult, and that is how the naval war will go. As you know, islands depend on sea-power to keep their supply routes open. We cannot tell until the air and naval battles in the Pacific have been settled, whether tne Japanese will be able to get supplies of raw materials from the mainland of China, and from all the islands spread out in the South Seas.

But what has happened ? There are a lot of materials they cannot get now the war has started, because they come from enemy countries, or they come long distances across hostile waters. No oil from the United States, the Dutch East Indies or Mexico ; no iron ore, unless they can win it by the sword or the bomb from Malaya or the Philippines ; no pig-iron or scrap from the United States or India ; no copper, lead, zinc, aluminium or magnesium or nickel or steel alloys from North, Central or South America.

OIL AND STEEL SUPPLIES.

And we do know from Japan's own resources and normal trade how much these things are needed. Take oil, which always occupies the star place nowadays in these calculations. In a year, Japan, including the island of Sakhalin, probably produces about 4,500,000 barrels of petroleum ; and, in addition, they possibly have another 2,500,000 barrels a year of oil made from coal and a fuel alcohol, making 7,000,000 barrels a year in all.

But 7,000,000 barrels is less than one-fifth, under 20 per cent, of Japan's normal oil consumption in a year. They **import** 30 million barrels—30 against seven domestically produced annually—and, as I have already said, the imports are Dutch and American, and they will not be forthcoming now.

Or take **steel,** which, after all, is still the foundation of war industries. The Japanese steel industry has grown a lot in recent years, and it is supposed to have a capacity now of something like seven million tons a year. But seven million tons is not so much by comparative standards. It is only half of Britain's steel capacity and it is not one-tenth of America's. **And what is more, the Japanese steel industry has not got any home base.** To make steel you need iron-ore and pig-iron and scrap, and in 1939 to make seven million tons or so of steel the Japanese had to import nearly six million tons of material, all from places they are now at war with.

Or, finally, take the non-ferrous and light metals that count for so much in the manufacture of modern weapons and aircraft. Half of Japan's copper in peacetime came from **the United States, eleven-twelfths of their lead and four-fifths of their zinc; and they have not got the aluminium—either the metal or the raw material, bauxite—or the magnesium to develop a large aircraft industry.**

FOOD SITUATION.

There is the picture then. Food—the Japanese have got enough, though mobilization is going to affect their farm labour force, and they are going to be hard-up for fertilizers which they used to import. Lately, their rice harvest has been inadequate, but there is rice enough in Indo-China and Siam. They are a long way off I know, some 2,000 miles from Japan itself, but the Japanese merchant fleet of over 5,500,000 gross tons, is the third biggest in the world. Will it be allowed to bring rice and rubber and tin from Siam and Indo-China, oil from Sakhalin, and foodstuffs and raw materials from the Chinese mainland ? That's the point, just as it is with us.

And what does all this add up to ? An island empire, like our island empire, with very limited natural resources, very dependent on outside supplies, very vulnerable to blockade, and in their case even if their navy can keep the supply lines open, **they still cannot get the supplies they most want—those supplies from America—because America is in on the other side** in the war, as well as on the other side of the Pacific.

Why is it then that our Minister of Economic Warfare, Dr. Darlton has warned us not to expect Japan to crack up economically ? Why did he say that in oil, steel and so on the Japanese have got enough to fight all out for a year or more ? The answer to that we should know ; we should know it from the way Germany has built up the most powerful war machine in the world, in spite of glaring weaknesses in economic supply.

YEARS OF PREPARATION.

The Japanese, too, have been getting ready for years. Ever since the first Axis Power went to war in 1939 they have been making ready for this month's aggression. Japan has laid in great stocks of the materials she needs ; she cut down civilian consumption as ruthlessly in peace time as she will have to do in wartime. All her foreign exchange resources for years she has used not for civilian imports but for war materials. She has exploited China ; she has even kept her forces on the Chinese battlefield short of supplies.

Japan's striking power, now and in the next few months, transcends her weakness. **In to-day's and to-morow's battles, Japan is strong and dangerous, but in staying power Japan is weak,** and weak because of the facts and figures that are given. With the war in China still gnawing at her resources, I doubt whether even victories can alter that. **Japan cannot be strong in fact without subduing the Americans, and if there is still an impossibility in modern warfare, there it is.**

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF JAPAN'S CO-PROSPERITY SCHEME.

(Below is a note on Japan's Co-prosperity Scheme and her economic position generally, written on the eve of her declaration of war against the U. S. A. and Britain).

IMPORTS VANISH. The establishment by Japan of her Co-prosperity Scheme demands the forcible concentration of her labour resources on the production of food and war materials: resources which have been diverted from industries producing exports and foreign exchange. As her exports vanish, so do her imports of cotton, oil, wool, machine tools and materials of steel manufacture. Although she is almost self-sufficient in chemicals for explosives, these by themselves will not make shells, guns and tanks.

OCCUPATIONAL REVOLUTION. Of Japan's seventy million people, thirty-two millions are "occupied"; the remainder being children, housewives and old people A quarter of the "occupied" are engaged in manufacturing industry, and of that number some two millions have been making textiles and clothing. Already the cotton and silk industries, the spearhead of Japan's economic advance of the past seventy years, are rapidly falling to pieces.

Perhaps a further quarter of the industrial population is engaged in the metals, machinery and chemical industries (mainly for munitions). This leaves about four million industrial workers to carry on all Japan's other industries unless a transfer is made from commerce (containing five million employees, chiefly small shopkeepers and employees of financial and trading concerns), or the depressed textile industries.

The rest of the working population, other than farmers, consists of public servants and professional men (two million); transport workers (one million); fishermen and miners (one million); domestic servants (900,000); and miscellaneous (400,000).

FOOD AND LIVING STANDARDS. Food is provided by fourteen million farmers, who can barely satisfy the heavy demands made upon them, in an industry where machinery cannot be used on any scale, and in any event cannot now be provided. Thus, in order to retain her gains in China, Japan is sacrificing her traditional skill in textiles, her small craftsmen and shopkeepers, and lowering the standards of her whole people. Meanwhile she is working faster and faster at her newly formed munitions industries, in which her advantages, other than the supply of cheap unskilled labour, are few. The ideal of a Co-prosperity Sphere has led Japan into a vicious circle.

The loss of German markets for Manchurian beans and oil-seeds, together with the price and labour policies of Japanese monopolies, has led to a serious shortage of vegetable oils in the East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere. The important perilla seed trade fell by 90 per cent last year. Soya beans are the chief export and basis of prosperity of Manchuria, and one of the main revenue-producing articles of the South Manchuria railway—the "economic barometer" of the Japanese people.

NO DANGER AT PRESENT OF ANY JAPANESE INVASION.

PATRIOTIC CITIZENS MUST CARRY ON THEIR WORK CALMLY.

GOVERNOR'S REASSURANCE AND APPEAL TO THE PEOPLE OF MADRAS.

"I would emphasise, in the first place, tnat there is no danger at present of any serious Japanese invasion of India with sea and land forces.

"While Singapore is in the hands of Britain the question of invasion does not really arise at all. Strong forces are, no doubt, arriving to support those already on the spot, and to assist the allied counter-offensive against the Japanese, which will come when the time is ripe."

So said His Excellency the Governor of Madras in a broadcast talk from All-India Radio, Madras, this afternoon (13—1—42) on the extent—and the limits—of the danger to Madras arising from the entry of Japan into the war on the side of our enemies, and from her initial successes in Malaya.

NO AIR RAID DANGER.

"Secondly", he continued, "I would emphasise that there is no immediate danger of large-scale Japanese air-raids on this Presidency, such as those which have recently taken place at Rangoon. Rangoon is about 120 miles from the Thailand frontier and about 400 miles from Bangkok; Madras is about 1,300 miles from the nearest point in Thailand, and therefore beyond the range of Japanese bombers operating from the land. If they attempted to attack Madras, they would be unable to return to their bases, for lack of fuel.

"The only possible danger to Madras at present is that a raiding Japanese vessel may slip into the Bay of Bengal, like the 'Emden' in the last war, and either fire a few shells into Madras or send over one or two planes to drop bombs. The likelihood of any particular citizen being hit in such a raid, particularly if he takes shelter when the warning sounds, is very small indeed.

"There is therefore no need for panic, and no need for anyone leaving Madras who has work there to do. It is the duty of every patriotic citizen to carry on with his work calmly, so that the country's war effort may not be hindered.

"The Government have organized all civil defence measures which may be necessary. Among others there are the various branches of A. R. P., fire, casualty, rescue and other services, in case of raids ; police forces to prevent sabotage, and to deal with unruly elements which might take advantage of trouble, and schemes for food supply and public health and safety in any emergency. And on the military side (in which I include both land, sea and air) you may be sure that all necessary plans to protect these shores are ready.

DO NOT SPREAD FANTASTIC RUMOURS.

"So it is I ask you not to believe or spread fantastic and false rumours. Only recently, wild stories were going round—even in respectable circles in Madras—that the Government were moving to Coimbatore, that the High Court had gone to Madura, that train-loads of European women and children were leaving Madras at night. These stories were of course utterly false and highly malicious. If you hear such alarming stories, ask the man who spreads them, where he heard them, and why they are not published in responsible newspapers, and if you come across people who are deliberately and maliciously spreading such stories to create alarm and panic, report them to the police.

"I can assure you that if any events occur which seriously increase the danger to Madras, then official communiques will be published in good time, and you can be absolutely sure that they will be true.

"Do not pay attention to scares of looting. Very few actual instances have occurred, and Government have adequate police forces to deal with any such trouble with a firm hand.

"The Government have taken, and will take, steps to see that prices are kept down, and profiteering and hoarding stopped, in order to make certain that the poorer classes continue to obtain their essential food at a reasonable price.

"Another widespread but quite unwarranted fear, based on a very few isolated instances, is that if troops come, they will molest the women-folk of the city. I wish to say with all the emphasis in my power that the Military Authorities have issued the strictest orders on this subject, and will in the future most severely punish any offender, as they have always done in the past.

TAKE SHELTER AND KEEP CALM.

"Finally, though the danger at present may not be great, I would advise you to find out from your local authorities what A.R.P. measures you should take. My advise on what to do if a raid does take place can be summed up in

the words "take shelter and keep calm." In Rangoon the vast majority of the casualties in the first raid could have been avoided if that advice had been taken. Better still, if you are active and patriotic, join the A.R.P. Service itself. It will give you responsible and useful work, and the satisfaction of knowing that you are doing your bit in this time of war for the protection of your fellow countrymen.

"Our final victory in this war is certain in the end, but there is much labour, sorrow and strife before that victory arrives. The more we work together, forgetting our differences, the sooner it will come.

"The ever-growing might of the Allies is invincible, and we can with complete certainty look forward to the utter defeat and destruction of the greatest menace the world has known."

SHRINKING ITALIAN LARDER. "UNPATRIOTIC BAKERS" GOVERNMENT'S HELPLESSNESS.

How Fascism is losing its grip on Italy's home front is described by C. M. Franzero, former London correspondent of the ***Giornale d'Italia,*** *in the* ***Daily Telegraph.***

Italy is in the throes of an internal agony that can hardly be endured. From the announcements, arguments, assumptions and remonstrances in Italian newspapers, it has been a comparatively easy task to piece together a full and exact picture of the state of public feeling existing to-day.

The standard of living in Italy even before the war was a good deal lower than in some other countries. When, therefore, an official broadcaster, Ringalessi, admitted in October that the food situation in Italy "is certainly very stringent," then it is stringent, indeed.

SEVEN OUNCES OF BREAD.

Bread rationed at 7 oz. a day, with an increase to 10½ oz. for labourers, represents the very minimum of Italian requirement. This 7 oz. or over is of poor quality, containing a high percentage of maize and potatoes. The press reports that, "owing to bakers' lack of patriotism, in many places bread is almost uneatable." The same applies to macaroni, the staple food of a large part of the country. By the end of June it was decreed that one type only of plain macaroni might be made or sold, and that type is almost black; from June 15, production of every kind of biscuit made of flour, fats or milk has been prohibited. Meat of any kind is almost unobtainable. After much confusion over provincial orders, a decree of May 7 announced that the distribution of meat for the civil population would take place only during Saturdays and Sunday mornings, and meat should only be eaten in public restaurants on those days.

HALF A PINT OF MILK FOR A FAMILY.

Milan, whose large industrial population has always had to be treated carefully, is described as one of the best-supplied centres; nevertheless milk in Milan is down to less than half a pint per day for a family. Butter is lacking. Queues for general foodstuffs form outside the shops at 5 a. m., and by 10 a. m. stocks are exhausted.

Florence has suffered shortage of bread. In Rome meat is almost unobtainable, and the butter ration is frequently not to be bought.

It is quite clear that Government is unable to control either the supply or the distribution of foodstuffs. In October, Farinacci, the *enfant terrible* of the régime, was found crying out that "the corporative system has been incapable of regulating prices and dealing with the problem of food; and, talking of the danger of Fascism, "is reducing the poorer classes to famine."

At the end of September shops were stunned by a ban on sales which forced them to remain open though they could not sell anything.

For 15 days trade was half paralysed by those measures. There is undeniable stringency in raw materials for war industries, as well as for general trade. Both gas and electricity for domestic users have been drastically curtailed. No electric fire may be used in house, office or workshop. Petrol and tyres are no longer available for private cars. Taxis must not carry people to theatres and cinemas, and not ply after 10 p. m. Buses and trams were to cease at 10 p. m. in order to economise fuel. On November 28 it was announced that sales of bicycle tyres to the general public were forbidden henceforward.

PROGRAMME OF LECTURES

OF THE

Pudukkottai State War Information Bureau.

LECTURE LXXVIII—(*Batch 5*).

1942—

January	... 17, Saturday ...	Town Hall	... 6.30 p. m.
	18, Sunday ...	Thiruvarangulam	... 6.00 p. m.
		Vamban	... 6.30 p. m.
	19, Monday ...	Vellanur	... 6.00 p. m.
		Puthambur	... 6.30 p. m.
	20, Tuesday ...	College (A) English	... 10.15 a. m.
		Puliyur	... 6.00 p. m.
		Kannangudi	... 6.30 p. m.

LECTURE LXXVIII (*Batch 5*)—(cont.)

1942—

January	...21, Wednesday	C. S. M. High School	...	10.00 a. m.
		Rani's High School	...	10.15 a. m.
		College (B) Tamil	...	10.15 a. m.
		Pallivasal	...	6.00 p. m.
		Pillamangalam	...	6.30 p. m.
	22, Thursday ...	Kolavoipatti	...	6.00 p. m.
		Kilayur (South)	...	6.30 p. m.
	23, Friday ...	Adanur	...	6.00 p. m.
		Aramanaippatti	...	6.30 p. m.

LECTURE LXXIX—(*Batch 1*).

24, Saturday ...	Town Hall	...	6.30 p. m.
25, Sunday ...	Poovarasagudi	...	6.00 p. m.
	Venkatakulam	...	6.30 p. m.
26, Monday ...	Perungalur	...	6.00 p. m.
	Adanakkottai	...	6.30 p. m.
27, Tuesday ...	College (A) English	...	10.15 a. m.
	Malampatti	...	6.00 p. m.
	Parambur	...	6.30 p. m.
28, Wednesday.	C. S. M. High School	...	10.00 a. m.
	Rani's High School	...	10.15 a. m.
	College (B) Tamil	...	10.15 a. m.
	Tirugokarnam	...	5.30 p. m.
	Udayalippatti	...	6.00 p. m.
	Killukottai	...	6.30 p. m.
29, Thursday ...	Arimalam	...	6.00 p. m.
	Keelanilaikkottai	...	6.30 p. m.
30, Friday ...	Tirumayyam	...	6.00 p. m.
	Melur	...	6.30 p. m.

Pudukkottai State War Information Bureau.

BRANCH OFFICES.

To facilitate the dissemination of correct war news the War Information Bureau are now establishing Branch Offices in the following six mofussil centres of the State.

1. RAYAVARAM.
2. PANAYAPATTI.
3. KARAMBAKKUDI.
4. ALANGUDI.
5. ANNAVASAL.
6. KIRANUR.

These are being provided with posters, maps, pictures, and various War literature in English and in Tamil and it is hoped that the public will make full use of the facilities provided.

Important Notice.

A

Well-known War Film

Prepared by

The British Government

Entitled

"ARMOURED CARS"

(Tamil version)

will be shown at the

VEST TALKIES, PUDUKKOTTAI

From 26-1-42 to 29-1-42.

The War Information Bureau warmly recommend it to the Public.

Sri Brihadamba State Press, Pudukkottai. 1000—17-1-42.